

ACT OF THE ASSEMBLY PASSED IN
DECEMBER 1754

At a Session of Assembly begun and held at the City of Annapolis the 12th Day of December in the fourth year of the Proprietary of the Provinces of Maryland and Avalon Lord Baron of Baltimore &c^a Annoq̄ Dom 1754 and Ending the 24th Day of the same Month.

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The following Laws were Enacted and Assented to by his Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq.^r Governor.

An Act for taking and detaining able-bodied Men for His Majesty's Service.

Whereas it is thought necessary at this Time, to raise a Body of able Land-men, for his Majesty's Service, against the French and their Allies on this Continent; and whereas it is found by Experience, that although there are Numbers of able-bodied Men in the several Counties of this Province, (whose enlisting into the said Service would not only greatly promote the same, but would also be removing a Burthen and Charge from the honest and industrious Inhabitants thereof) yet that such Persons are too generally averse to engage in such Service:

[Preamble.]

Be it therefore Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful, upon Application of any Officer, or Officers, commissioned or appointed to raise or levy Men for his Majesty's Service, to and for the Justices of the Peace of every County in this Province, or any one or more of them, and they, and every of them, are hereby directed and required, within their several and respective Counties, by Warrant under their or some or one of their Hands and Seals, to command all Sheriffs, Under-Sheriffs, Constables, and others, within their several and respective Counties, to be by the said Justices from Time to Time for that Purpose especially appointed, to take and seize all and every able-bodied Freeman who live idle and do not follow or exercise some lawful Calling or Employment, or have not some other visible and lawful Support and Maintenance, and to make or cause to be made Search, within their several and respective Counties, for all and every such Person and Persons as they can find, who are or shall appear to them to be within the Description of this Act, and to bring before the said Justices, or any two or more of them, all such Persons. And in Case the said Justices, before whom such Person or Persons shall be brought, upon Examination had before them, shall judge them, or any of them, to be such as are herein before described

[Upon Application of an Officer to any Justice, he is obliged to issue his Warrant.]

[To take up idle Freeman;]

[and enlist them as Soldiers.]

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